Lexington, March 4th 1843.

My Dear Friend.

Three weeks ago I wrote to you, saying that I foresaw it would be impracticable for me to prepare a Lecture to be delivered in the Course at Armory Hall. I ought not to have accepted the appointment, but I felt strongly inclined so to do - and thought I should find somewhat among my manuscripts on Slavery, that with a little labor might be prepared. But really I find nothing that I should be willing to deliver, especially nothing on the subject that has been assigned me. I have read very little of late, of the doings of the Colonization Society - so that pretty much all I can say is predicated on the facts of the case, as it was five years ago. - It is a fact that my School engrosses all my time - and I read little else but School books and those illustrative of the Sciences taught in them - excepting the Liberator and Standard. -

I hope you have procured some one to take my place. I nominated my excellent friend Oliver Stearns of Hingham. And now I would name to you Adin Ballou

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Either of them would more than supply my place.

I pray you excuse me to the members of your Society. They will doubtless expect that I ought not to undertake the charge of such an institution as this, without the fixed purpose of discharging as faithfully as I may be able the duties which it imposes upon me. And I assure you these duties are more numerous and weighty than I anticipated.

Yours very truly

Samuel J. May.

March 4th 1843

Mrs Maria W. Chapman

Summer Street

Boston.

MS. A.S.S. 1814